

We had a 2 weeks break for the Christmas holiday and resumed work on the 4th of January. We thank you for the Christmas gifts that we the staff received and the children. I met with some guardians of the children and they were grateful too for the same.

The staff had end of year meeting and these were some areas of concern to us as the implementers of the project:

- 1 (i) The tools and machines required to train these children are not enough to cater for the increasing number. With time they wear off as some break off too during the training process which cannot be avoided. Therefore they require replacement quite often. The work lags because they share the machines and tools amongst themselves i.e one machine is shared amongst four children.
(ii) These machines need to be acquired at least in the first quarter to avoid delay in training.
- 2 Every year we include settlement package to the children who have finished training in our annual budget but it has never been taken into consideration. The reason why we emphasise on this is that jobs are scarce and these children cannot compete favourably in the outside job market. For instance last year the four girls who were given sewing machines are doing well now. One Biyinzinka Sarah ,who was staying with a good Samaritan who opted to stay with her as she was doing housework for them and at the same time she was training with us. Having received the sewing machine Sarah is now able to rent her own house where she is paying Shs 30,000 per month and she can look after her self. She told us that she has gained confidence in running her business she has known to set prices for different designs that she makes. Telugulwa Harriet makes for people clothes although she is still staying with her brother but she no longer asks money for her up keep.

Nerima Helen is also making clothes for sell but she says she got part time work in packing drugs during night shift with an industry which makes drugs for HIV+ patients. Oliver Wotali went back to the village with her sewing machine and she is working from there. This is an encouragement to us that those girls have a source of income and they are able to look after themselves without going to the streets for commercial sex or dubious activity that can lead them death. Therefore it is our request that settlement package be given special consideration.

- 3 The staff also suggested 2 additional areas of training opportunities which may not require reading and writing experience. These were hair dressing and craft making & decoration. These do not take along period of training and not expensive machines are used to do it and also the training materials can be cheaply acquired. This would be another alternative area to those who have never gone to school. Many people have come to our office asking especially for hair dressing which currently we are not offering. As a staff we do not recommend it.
- 4 We have been supporting the children without catering for their health. We have had cases were children fall very sick and the project gets to know about it but cannot do anything to treat them. There is one of our child Kityo Joseph in St James Biina Primary school he has had conical would on his leg that has made him lame, Annet Kyolaba of Luzira P/S was sickly through out her primary studies but we could not handle it and many others. Let some thing be done in future.

We have now embarked on registering new children for vocation and so far we have 35 girls and boys and the number will increase. In March we expect to wind up with the 2009 intake and they will be awarded with certificate at the end. We are busy with music, dance & drama that the children will show on the graduation day which date has not been confirmed. The convenient date will be confirmed to us by the Board.

Back to school Programme

Our children who sat for their end of Primary leaving Exams passed with good scores. Ochen Daniel got 15 aggregates (second grade) Opio Gabriel got 16 aggregates (second grade) Namuleme Halima got 20 aggregates (second grade) Kange Anthony got 20 aggregates (second grade). All the 4 have been admitted in Luzira senior secondary school for Universal Free secondary education and Annet Kyolaba who has been sickly got 29 aggregates (third grade) unfortunately she cannot be admitted for the free education in secondary.

We are now remaining with 16 children in back to school programme and this year we have 2 who will sit for their final exams at the end of the year. They are both in Luzira primary school. They have all reported back to school for their first term with all their school fees and requirement paid.

Thank for the generous support

All from Christine, P.D.O